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Economic statistics: price statistics

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with the request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-fifth session,** the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (convener: International Monetary Fund) for information. The Commission is requested to take note of the report of the Working Group.

* E/CN.3/2005/1.
** See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 4* (E/2004/24), chap. I.A.

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Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

1. A brief note on the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics was submitted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-fifth session held from 2 to 5 March 2005 in New York.

2. Since then, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has succeeded ILO as the secretariat of the Working Group.

3. The *Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice*[1] was published by ILO in July 2004 and the *Producer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice*[2] was published by the IMF in September 2004. Electronic copies of the chapters of the Manuals are available on the web sites of the respective institutions. The Manuals were introduced at numerous conferences and meetings during the period June-September 2004. Both Manuals are being translated by IMF into French, Spanish and Russian, with expected publication by the end of 2005.

4. A new technical expert group was formed to develop an export and import price index manual. The group's first meeting was held in June 2004. the new manual will follow the same structure as that of the CPI and PPI Manuals. A draft of the manual is expected by the end of 2005. Draft chapters are currently available for review and comment from the IMF web site at http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/tegeipi/index.htm. Comments can be provided by e-mail using the web site or sent by fax to the number provided on the web site. All comments should be received no later than August 2005.

5. The Working Group plans to meet again in the first half of 2005 to discuss the progress on the export and import price index manual. The Working Group will also discuss its future role in updating the CPI and PPI Manuals and will determine whether there are additional international needs for other price index manuals.

Notes

[1] Geneva, International Labour Office, 2004.

[2] Washington, D.C., IMF, 2004.